

Week of May 20, 2002: MaineDOT Flash Facts
Topic: Emergency Related Safety Tips

Driver safety question:

-**True** or **False**: Road shoulders are a safe place to work on your car or wait for help.
(**False**. Fatalities happen every year to people waiting on the shoulder. Move your car as far off the road as possible, and move uninjured people to a safe location.)

Monday:

If you find yourself with a disabled vehicle do not make a bad situation worse.

- Get completely off the road (away from traffic)
- Turn on emergency flashers
- Get everyone to a safe location.
- Call for help
- Watch for traffic

Friday:

40,000 crashes are reported each year on Maine roads.

If you see a crash or an injury on the road:

- Call 911
- If you stop, get completely off the road (Keep a safe distance from any moving traffic.) (Make sure your passengers are at a safe location)
- Let trained professionals direct traffic.

Wednesday, 5/22 Pre-Memorial Day segment

Facts:

-In the past 5 years there were about 2000 crashes on Memorial Day weekend in Maine, resulting in 10 fatalities and over 1000 injuries.

-Memorial Day is the unofficial start of summer and more people will be on the road.

How to prepare for your Memorial Day Trip?

- Make sure your car is in good mechanical condition. (Check fluids, tires, lights, wipers, brakes and horn)
- Make sure you are fully rested.
- Packing:
 - Pack safely. Keep all windows clear.
 - Make sure roof luggage is secure. (Re-check periodically)
- Plan your routes before leaving. (Seek alternate routes to avoid highway construction.)
- Expect congestion and delays. (Allow for extra time)
- Make sure everyone and everything is secured in the car.